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A

PRACTICAL ESSAY

On the CURE of

VENEREAL, SCORBUTIC, ARTHRITIC,

LEPROUS, SCROPHULOUS, and CANCEROUS

DISORDERS.

[Price One Shilling.]

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BRITISH MUSEUM
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FEB

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PRACTICAL ESSAY

On the CURE of

VENEREAL, SCORBUTIC, ARTHRITIC,

LEPROUS, SCROPHULOUS, and CANCEROUS

DISORDERS.

In a METHOD entirely NEW.

By *JOSEPH HIGGS*,

SURGEON in *Birmingham*.

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TO

JOHN BELCHIER, *Esq*;

SURGEON of GUY'S HOSPITAL,
and F. R. S.

SIR,

I AM pleased with nothing so much in the Publication of the following short Essay, as with the Opportunity it flings in my way of this Address. I am often wont to reflect on the Happiness

DEDICATION.

Happineſs I enjoyed in being contemporary with you, during the Space of ſeveral Years, under that uncommon Ornament of his Profeſſion, Mr. CHESELDEN. For ſuch he really was; being a Gentleman not only highly diſtinguiſhed for a Practice, founded on an inconteſtable Theory, but one at the ſame time who was actuated with the moſt noble Sentiments of Humanity, as he was ever pleaſed with all Occaſions, that offered themſelves, of communicating his Knowledge to Others, for the Benefit and Service of Mankind.

THE Steps he trod, the Age may congratulate itſelf, you purſue. Animated by an

equal

equal Zeal for doing good Offices to the Community, you eſtabliſh his ineſtimable Example, a ſtanding Rule for your own Conduct. That you may arrive at the higheſt Pitch of radiant Fame in this World, and be crowned, conſequently to your truly worthy Acts, with a glorious Immortality in the next, is the moſt ardent Wiſh of,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient and

Moſt affectionate humble Servant,

JOSEPH HIGGS.

DEDICATION

equal Zeal for doing good Offices to the Community, your exemplary inclinable Example, a standing Rule for your own Conduct. That you may arrive at the highest Pitch of radiant Fame in this World, and be crowned, consequently to your truly worthy Acts, with a glorious Immortality in the next, is the most ardent Wish of,

SIR,

Your most obedient and

Most obliged humble Servant,

JOSEPH MACGS.

PRESCRIPTIONS referred to in the following Pages.

RECIPE Flor. Sulph. unc. iv. Argent. Viv. unc. xvj. Miſceantur optime et triturentur, donec Pulvis Subtiliſſimus Æthiopicus fiat.

℞. Mercur. Dulc. Pulv. Myrrh. ana p. æ. M. F. Pulvis Subtiliſſimus. Ex Ferro Igne rubro accipiatur Fumus Ore Aperto.

℞. Pulv. Æthiopic. Axung. Porcin. ana p. æ. M. F. Unguentum pro Uſu.

℞. Cerat. Alb. Argent. Viv. ana p. æ. Optime Miſceantur.

℞. Mercur. Dulc. unc. j. Cum Pulv. e Creta Simpl. vel Compoſit. drachm. iij, vel cum Rad. Serpent. Virginian. drachm. j. Fiat Mercurius Neutralizatus.

℞. Argent. Viv. unc. j. Emplaſtr. Simpl. unc. iſs. Terebinth. Commun. q. ſ. M. F. Unguentum.

℞. Emplaſtr. Commun. Ol. Ped. Bovin. ana q. ſ. M. et lento Igne liqueſc. Signetur Ceratum Album.

℞. Sal. Ruſſic. unc. ſs. Acet. Diſtillat. lib. ſs. Aq. Fontan. lib. j. Syrup. Simpl. unc. iſs. F. Miſtura Neutralis.

℞. Pulp. Prunor. in Decoct. Mucilag. Hord. Perlat. ppt. unc. ij. Nitr. Cremor. Tartar. Sal. Purgant. Commun. ana unc. iv. Acet. q. ſ. M. F. Electarium Aperitivum.

℞. Sal. Purgant. Commun. unc. viij. Nitr. unc. j. Aq. Fontan. lib. j. Acet. unc. iv. M. F. Decoctum Purgans.

A

Practical ESSAY, &c.

N the following little Treatiſe, I ſhall ſet forth a Practice derived from rational Principles, ſtudiouſly avoiding all trifling Speculations, ſuch being calculated ſolely for mere Amuſement, as they no ways concur with what ought to be the main Intention of our ſalutary Profeſſion, namely, that of relieving our Fellow-Creatures from thoſe bodily Calamities, which are the proper Objects of our Art. SURGERY is undoubtedly of great Antiquity, and has been honoured through a long Series of ſucceſſive Ages, even to a Degree of Veneration. Nor are the preſent Times deſtitute of Profeſſors in this Science, equal in Point of Chirurgi-

cal Abilities to any of their moſt renowned and moſt accompliſhed Predeceſſors.

But how abounding ſoever may be not only our grand Metropolis, but ſeveral other Parts alſo of this Kingdom, with Perſons of eminent Character in our Department of Surgery, it is to be lamented notwithſtanding, that a Number of Practitioners ſhould occur, who are ſo far from being well verſed in the Buſineſs of their Profeſſion, that in reality they are altogether ignorant of the firſt Rudiments, and even the very Alphabet, if I may ſo expreſs myſelf, of their Calling; being intire Strangers to the Anatomical Part of it, without which Foundation it is abſolutely in vain to attempt the rearing any other than a downright hazardous and unavoidably chimerical Structure. It is needleſs to ſet about deſcanting on the fatal Conſequences of being unacquainted with this neceſſary Pre-requiſite to Chirurgical Operations. The Thing is ſelf-evident. On which account is it not to be earneſtly wiſhed, that ſome effectual Expedient were ſet on foot, that would, to all Intents and Purpoſes, prevent the Ignorant and Unskilful from intruding into this Province, ſcattering Diſmay, and making wild Havock, where-ever they chance to be unguardedly

unguardedly employed? For my own part, may I be permitted to ſpeak my Sentiments freely in regard of this Matter, I am intirely of Opinion, that, in caſe all Surgeons were, for the future, to be examined by one, two, or more Gentlemen of Note of the Profeſſion, deputed by the Government for that End, and not to be permitted to practiſe till approved of and licenced by them, it might be the Means of preſerving as many of HIS MAJESTY's Subjects in one Year, as a deſtructive War could ſweep away in a much longer Compaſs of Time.

BUT, to paſs from hence to the Affair in hand; Venereal, Scorbutic, Leprous, Scrophulous, and Cancerous Diſorders have been the Subject of ſeveral phyſical Writers; but at the ſame time without any Method of treating them laid down, whereby one might depend on any Certainty of a Cure; eſpecially in reſpect of Cancers, which, it is too notorious, reign abſolutely triumphant over the general Courſe of Practice now in vogue.

HOWEVER ſingular my Way of managing theſe Maladies may be, I flatter myſelf, that this little Attempt of mine, as my Motive for its Publication flows from

from a Propenſity inherent in me of being of ſome Uſe to the Publick, will be received with Candour at leaſt by the unprejudiced Part of the Profeſſion, though it ſhould fall far ſhort of a formal Approbation.

My ſubſequent Animadverſions will principally relate to Mercury, the Properties and Effects whereof have been amply ſet forth by many learned Men. And indeed one would be apt to imagine, that the Nature of it ſhould, by this Time, be thoroughly underſtood, from the Variety of its Preparations, and the conſtant Recourſe that has been had to it for a great Number of Years by almoſt every Practitioner, either in Surgery, or Physick.

Various have been the Theoretic Syſtems of Authors in reſpect of this Mineral, and as various the Methods they have adopted and patronized for its Adminiſtration. But theſe I ſhall now paſs over in Silence, as I look upon it a Task quite foreign to my preſent Purpoſe: All I propoſe by this Plan, being only to exhibit to the Publick a few plain Matters of Fact in the Manner they happened to occur in the general Run of my Practice; the Relation of which, I

hope, to a Reader, who ſhall weigh the Buſineſs with Attention, will by no means appear either abſurd, or fictitious.

In regard to that great and almoſt invaluable Medicine, Argentum Vivum, I have contrived the following Proceſs, which, though familiar and ſimple, I find to anſwer moſt of the Intentions to be expected from it in Practice, *viz.*

℞. Flor. Sulphur. unc. iv. Argent. Viv. unc. xvj.
M. F. Pulvis Subtiliſſimus Æthiopicus.

This Powder, incorporated according to Art, will work its way through the minuteſt Paſſages, and that more forcibly than any other Alterative whatever. Conſequently, it is of great Efficacy in removing Obſtructions that are wont to be formed in the Veſſels, and is infinitely preferable to the common Æthiops Mineral of the Shops. It may be uſed externally, worked into an Ointment with Hog's-Lard, in all cold Tumours and obſtructed Glands; and internally, in its native Æthiopic Form, as an Alterative.

THE Cinnabarine Fume, which is a common Expedient for drying up Ulcers in the Tonſils, Uvula, and Parts adjacent, if not uſed with great Caution, will bring on a Salivation, and thereby very much alarm the Patient, and perhaps put the Practitioner to no little Perplexity who injoined it. This Effect of it proceeds from the Activity of its mercurial and arſenical Qualities. Hence, by an almoſt Cauſtic Property, it penetrates the Parts, and propels its Fumes through the whole glandular Compages of the Throat, and by that Means, inſtead of becoming a mild Deſiccative to dry up and conſtringe the flabby relaxed Fibres of the diſeaſed Gland, ſwells and diſtends the tender Tubes, exciting painful Senſations, and ſometimes producing even an Excoriation of the Part.

INSTEAD therefore of Cinnabar, I make uſe of the following Powder, *viz.*

℞. Mercur. Dulc. Pulv. Myrrh. ana p. æ. M. F. Pulvis Subtiliſſimus.

THE

THE Fumes ariſing from ſome of this Powder, ſprinkled on a red-hot Iron, I order to be received in at the Mouth, opened as wide as may be for that Purpoſe. The PULVIS ÆTHIOPICUS juſt deſcribed, and MYRRH well mixed together, and uſed in this Manner, will likewiſe anſwer the ſame Intention with the Cinnabarine Fume, without being attended with its pernicious Conſequences.

The UNGUENTUM CÆRULEUM is frequently made uſe of in order to cure cutaneous Eruptions. Now it is no unaccuſtomed Circumſtance for this Ointment to meet with bad Succeſs, eſpecially in tender Habits of Body, or when it is applied without due Caution and Circumſpection. But I have found by repeated Experience, that the ill Effects of it are prevented by the Addition of Sulphur: Which Management renders it efficacious, when it would otherwiſe turn out if not detrimental, at leaſt abortive. For Example:

℞. Pulv. Æthiopic. Axung. Porcin. ana p. æ. M. F. Unguentum pro Uſu.

When I at any time recur to Crude Mercury, I do ſo in order to raiſe Salivations by Unction, or elſe to conſume callous Lips or Excreſcencies. To compaſs this End, the following Formula may, in my Opinion, be as proper as any.

℞. Cerat. Alb. Argent. Viv. ana p. æ. Miſce ſ. a.

In the firſt Stage of the Lues Venerea, after Bleeding, I rub the Unguentum Cæruleum Mitius plentifully into the private Parts, and apply the White-bread Pultice, which muſt be repeated twice a Day, omitting the Axungia. At the ſame time I adviſe the taking of the Electarium Purgans, or the Decoctum Purgans Commune, together with the drinking freely of Emulſions, Mallows Tea, or the like ſoft and cooling Liquids of the Diuretic Claſs. Should the Lues be accompanied with Shankerous Ulcers, or Excoriations, it would be altogether adviſable to dreſs with the Ceratum Album and Argentum Vivum, and to give inwardly Mercurius Dulcis blended with Pulv. e Creta Simpl. vel Compoſit. or with Virginian Snakeroot, in the following Proportion, *viz.*

℞. Mercur.

℞. Mercur. Dulc. unc. j. Cum Pulv. e Creta Simpl. vel Compoſit. drachm. iij, vel cum Rad. Serpentar. Virginian. drachm. j. F. Mercurius Neutralizatus.

THE mixing the MERCURIUS DULCIS with the RADIX SERPENTARIÆ, inſtead of the PULVIS e CRETA, will, in regard of ſome particular Habits, be found to be of greater Advantage; inaſmuch as this Root levigated with MERCURY makes a ſurpriſing Alteration in it, as is clearly evident from its Effects. And as this Preparation of MERCURY muſt be allowed to make its way more eaſily into the Habit, ſo will it prevent thoſe bad Accidents, to which tender Conſtitutions are naturally ſubjected: Which Conſideration ought ever to be uppermoſt when we have the FAIR SEX under our Care. Their Bodies being formed of a much more delicate Texture than ours are, their Fibres more relaxed, and the State of both their ſolid and fluid Parts different in many reſpects from that of the Male, the Treatment of them ought conſequently to differ, and to be accompanied with all imaginable Caution, Prudence, and Circumſpection.

In violent Cordees, or in a great Difficulty of making water, and in Inflammations of thoſe Parts, I adminiſter the Neutral Mixture, and that generally with good Succeſs, but prepared with Barley-Water. To two Pounds of this Mixture I add three Drachms of purified Nitre, and order ſix Spoonfuls of it to be taken every third Hour. I even give it, when a Salivation is to be raiſed, whether by Unction or internal Medicines, with the Addition of Pulv. e Creta Compoſit. which guards the Stomach and Inteſtines from the bad Effects of the Mercury, and helps to ſecure the Patient againſt any Attack of a Fever, or an Inflammation. But ſhould theſe be making their Advances notwithſtanding this Precaution, repeated Bleeding will be neceſſary, together with a prudent Uſe of Opiates; an Eye had at the ſame time to that cuſtomary Symptom of a Cordee, a conſtant Provocation to make water, which is ever attended with Pain. At this Period of the Diſorder an Examination of the State of the Canal ſhould always be made by means of the Bougie, or medical Candle.

THE Uſe of BOUGIES is now pretty well known, and the various particular Compoſitions of them, which have been held as great Secrets by many Practitioners, in ENGLAND as well as in FRANCE, are experienced to be in a manner equally effectual, provided they be of a proper Conſiſtence, and of an Emplaſtic Nature. If there be any Difference in them, thoſe that have the ARGENTUM VIVUM in their Compoſition ſeem to bid the faireſt to excel. The moſt uſeful that I have made trial of are prepared with Argent. Viv. unc. i Terebinthin. Commun. q. ſ. Cerat. Alb. unc. i. and Farin. Tritic. in a Quantity ſufficient to give a due Conſiſtence. Thoſe BOUGIES that are prepared with Turpeth Mineral, or Mercur. Præcipitat. Cauſtic. or with Mercurial Salts, or with any thing of an Eſcarotic Quality, are by no means proper, but on the contrary abſolutely pernicious, and over and above render the Application of the Remedy oftentimes as intolerable as the Diſeaſe itſelf, exulcerating the tender nervous Parts of the Urethra, which can never bear an Application of a ſtimulating Nature. Nay, ſometimes a long continued Uſe of them, eſpecially in an indifferent Habit of Body, will bring on Inflammations of the Parts, and other bad Accidents,

will produce Fiſtulas in Perinæo of a moſt obſtinate Tendency, and at laſt become incurable.

In ſtubborn Venereal Ulcers I have frequently made Iſſues in the Inguinal Glands. I dip the Tent, or Doſſil, in Unguent. Mercurial. and internally give equal Parts of Mercur. Dulc. and Creta levigated together. I find Mercury thus compounded, and made up into Pills or Bolus's, to turn out a better Medicine, than when adminiſtred according to the common Forms of the Shops. The Creta Alba I look upon as one of the beſt Abſorbents, and accordingly I give that and Aqua Calcis, with the Neutral Mixture, after a Salivation, in order to ſweeten the Blood, and deſtroy the Acrimony of the Juices; which Purpoſe I experience it to anſwer much more effectually, than the Decoction of the Woods, which on this Occaſion is commonly preſcribed.

In painful Tumours from Cancerous Habits, I would recommend the ſubſequent Pultice, *viz.* Boil Turnips in a Decoction of Pearl Barley and Poppy-Seeds to a tenderneſs; then run the Pulp through a a Sieve, and apply it to the Part affected. The following Preſcriptions likewiſe would not be indirect, where there is a copious and painful Diſcharge, *viz.*

℞. Cerat.

℞. Cerat. Alb. unc. ij. Sacchar. Saturn. drachm. i. Miſce.

℞. Emplaſtr. de Minio, Ol. e Ped. Bovin. ana q. ſ. M. F. Ceratum Rubrum.

℞. Cerat. Rubr. unc. ij. Opii, Alumin. Commun. ana drachm. j. Miſce.

I MUST not omit in this Place a Mixture of known Efficacy in Cancerous Tumours, and Ulcers of the Tonſils, Uvula, and Tongue, which is as follows, *viz.*

℞. Argent. Viv. Cret. Alb. ana unc. ſs. Hiſce optime incorporatis Add. Mell. inſpiſſat. unc. ij. F. Miſtura Oralis, qua Partes inungantur bis in die.

IN the SCURVY, a Diſeaſe ſo common amongſt ſeafaring Perſons, my Patients have been relieved by drinking plentifully of the Neutral Mixture made with Aq. Fontan. and Pulv. e Creta Simpl. vel Compoſit. and, after the Addition, as Circumſtances might require, of a ſmall Quantity of Spirit or ſome compound

compound Water, acidulated with Sp. Nitr. Dulc. or the Vitriolic Acid.

In regard of Gouty Perſons, the Neutral Mixture is in all reſpects a proper Remedy, if taken after the Fit is over, mixed with Tinctur. Serpentar. Virginian. or with Rum, Brandy, Arrack, or Mountain Wine, three Times a Day, from three to ſix Spoonfuls of the Mixture at a Doſe. If it be taken in Wine, it makes a pleaſant Julep.

This Mixture may be even given in the Fit itſelf with Pulv. e Creta Simpl. vel Compoſit. being well ſuited for diſſolving the Gouty Salts that lodge in the Capillary Veſſels of the Joints, and for carrying them off by the cutaneous Pores in Perſpiration; or elſe of cauſing them to unite with the Maſs of Blood, and to circulate through thoſe Parts without ſtriking upon and wounding the tender Membranes and Ligaments with which they are furniſhed. Thus by a ſafe and ſimple Method may Eaſe be procured in a Diſtemper, otherwiſe the moſt painful and obſtinate perhaps of any to which the human Body is ſubjected.

THE Mixture, which I have here been recommending, and conſtantly made uſe of in my Practice, is as follows, *viz.*

℞. Sal. Ruſſic. unc. ſs. Acet. Diſtillat. lib. ſs. Aq. Fontan. lib. i. Syr. Simpl. unc. ij. Miſce.

WHEREVER there is an Inflammatory or Sizy State of the Blood and Juices, I would, when proper Evacuations have preceded, adviſe this Neutral Mixture: Which likewiſe in Fevers of moſt Kinds, and in Colics, Fluxes, and all Hæmorrhages whatever, I have found of very great Service. Nor is it without an Advantage, which is ſcarce to be met with in the common Saline Draughts, as it is devoid of that nauſeous Taſte, which Sal Abſinthii generally preſerves in all Vehicles it is mixed with, ariſing from a rank bitter ſaponaceous Oil, highly diſagreeable to the Palate. The Cineres Clavellati, or Sal Ruſſicum, on the other hand, is more pure, and muſt be allowed the Character of being the moſt ſaponaceous Alkali as yet known. The Acetum, moreover, produces a better and a more depurative Fermentation than the Juice of Lemons; the latter being an unprepared Vegetable Acid drawn

from a foreign Fruit, the former an Acid of our own Growth ſeparated from Feculency by Diſtillation. I would not be underſtood to inſinuate, that this Neutral Mixture, as I term it, ſhould be always given alone, or exactly in the Manner I have directed it. It may be varied as the Circumſtances of the Patient may chance to vary, and be accompanied with other Things of a medical Tendency agreeably to the concomitant Symptoms. Thus when mixed with Powders of the abſorbent Claſs it becomes an adequate Remedy for whatever Crudities may affect the Stomach, or Bowels, the conſtant Source of Heart-burns, Indigeſtion, and colicky Complaints. The Putrefaction is powerfully corrected by the Acetum, the predominant Crudity and Acidity abſorbed by the teſtaceous Materials, and the Obſtructions diſſolved by the alkalious Parts of the Medicine. So that in Diſeaſes affecting the Primæ Viæ, or firſt Paſſages, the Uſe of it may, I think, without Vanity, be pronounced a much more efficacious Expedient for removing them, than the Tribe of Aromatic and Alexipharmic Tinctures ſo frequently recurred to on theſe Occaſions; eſpecially in regard of Convulſion Fits, which are generally ſuppoſed to derive their Origin from ſome ſuch offending Matter in the Bowels as I have been ſpeaking of.

The Miſtura Neutralis, with the Addition of Aqua Calcis, is alſo beneficial in Scorbutic Habits, in Venereal eruptive Diſpoſitions, and in Scrophulous and even Leprous Complaints. It ſcours the Glands, attenuates the Lentor and Viſcidity of the Fluids, and paves the way for removing whatever cutaneous Deformities, provided the Skin be anointed at the ſame time with the Pulvis Æthiopicus and Axungia, and the Æthiops I have directed taken internally, made up into a Bolus, or Pills, with Balſam of *Peru*.

This Medicine, to wit, the Mixture above-mentioned, being of a Diuretic Nature, will anſwer manifold Intentions in reſpect of a Dropſy, along with proper Purgation, *&c.* In Aſthmas likewiſe it powerfully relieves the fine tender Veſſels, that are obſtructed in that Diſorder to ſuch a Degree, that they are almoſt choaked up with viſcid glutinous Humours; and with the Addition of Gum Ammoniac it will attenuate and force its way ſtill more irreſiſtibly. It is alſo a good Anti-Emetic, and, with a few Drops of the Tinctura Thebaica mixed with it, will take off Vomiting and Sickneſs at the Stomach with great Eaſe, Safety, and almoſt an abſolute Certainty.

THUS this plain and familiar Compound, by different Combinations, will ſerve various Purpoſes in the Cure of Diſeaſes. To confirm what I have been advancing in regard of this favourite Mixture, I ſhall exhibit to the Reader a few Inſtances, out of a great many that have occurred to me in my private Practice, of its ſuperior Powers, and the uncommon Efficacy it is endued with of removing Diſorders of a very ſtubborn and obſtinate Nature: Which Inſtances at the ſame time will, I hope, place me in a Light above any Suſpicion, that what I have been delivering concerning this Medicine has flowed more from a Motive of Self-Adulation, than from a real Conſciouſneſs and Conviction of any peculiar Merit in reſpect of its Compoſition.

I AM often wont to entertain myſelf with Reflections on the Simplicity of the Conduct of Nature. In her Productions reigns a plain, ſimple, Uniformity, though ſhe is deſtitute notwithſtanding of no Inſtrument neceſſary for the Accompliſhment of her Deſigns. By copying the Simplicity of her Intentions we are led into no Mazes or Perplexities whatever. But when we deviate in our Purſuits, and ſtray from

the plain Paths ſhe marks out for us, we expoſe ourſelves to the unavoidable Danger of falling into a thouſand groſs Abſurdities, and ridiculous Syſtems. Thus the famous PITCAIRNE, though otherwiſe a Perſon of great Genius and Sagacity, was betrayed into thoſe chimerical Calculations of his, concerning the prodigious Power of the Stomach, as a Muſcle, in performing Digeſtion, &c. Chimerical, I ſay, inaſmuch as nothing can be more abſurd and contrary to the leaſt Obſervation, as that the Muſcles of the Body ſhould act with a greater or leſs Degree of Strength according to their Weight and Bulk; or that the Muſcular Coat of the Stomach ſhould bear a Compariſon with thoſe of the Thumb, or any other Part of the Body. But, to reſume the Thread of my Diſcourſe, I ſhall now recount a few Inſtances of the Succeſs of this Neutral Mixture.

INSTANCE I.

MRS. P——ST, in PARK-STREET, was ſeized with an Inflammation in her Foot, which was ſoon followed by a Mortification. On this Occaſion Dr. SWINFIN and Dr. GRESWOLD were called in, together with Mr. BOLYSTON, as an Apothecary. Great

Quantities

Quantities of the BARK were preſcribed on this Emergency, and warm Applications made to the Part, ſuch as are generally uſed in theſe Caſes, but to no Purpoſe. She was abſolutely pronounced by the Gentlemen who attended her a dead Woman. In this calamitous Situation, whom could ſhe have recourſe to for Comfort, but to a Parſon? This Clergyman's Friends ſent for me. As ſhe was now under my ſole Direction and Management, I in the firſt Place made bolt Inciſions in the Part affected, and, after ordering ſuitable Applications to it, I adviſed the Neutral Mixture, in Conjunction with the Tincture of Virginian Snakeroot, to be taken of plentifully. This Method brought on a good Digeſtion, and by adminiſtring the Decoct. Cort. Querc. Intern. the Cure was perfectly accompliſhed, and ſhe lived many Years after.

THE Authors of ſome late Treatiſes on Gun-Shot Wounds relate how many Pounds of the Peruvian Bark they have given to one Patient. I dare affirm, that the Decoct. Cort. Querc. Intern. along with Spirit of Vitriol, or common Alum, in a ſufficient Quantity, is much preferable to it, and anſwers better than any other Styptic, even the famed ones of EATON and HELVETIUS; and that an Extract made from

it

it is beyond that of the Cortex Peruvianus itſelf. I have uſed it with uncommon Succeſs in great Diſcharges from Ulcers, Gleets, Fluxes of all Kinds; in Intermittents, in Fallings down of the Vagina, Anus, and Uvula, by way of Fomentation or Vapour, and in all Hæmorrhages, and large Evacuations whatever. In a word, when the Veſſels have loſt in a manner their natural Elaſticity, and the balſamic Tincture of the Blood is almoſt deſtroyed, this Medicine will produce ſurpriſing Effects, and afford, as it were, divine Help.

INSTANCE II.

Mrs. Baker, a married Gentlewoman, laboured under a cancerated Breaſt. She called in Dr. Antrobus and Henry Greswold, Eſq; ſince deceaſed, to her Aſſiſtance, who preſcribed the cuſtomary pompous Formulæ Medendi of the Shops, but to no End in Nature, and at laſt declared it was abſolutely impoſſible to cure her. Soon after ſhe ſent for me. I informed her I would do the beſt I could for her, and accordingly ordered the Neutral Mixture with Creta Alba, and a purging Mixture to be taken of twice a Week in a ſmall Quantity, fomenting the Part affected

affected with a Decoction of Mallows, Poppy-Heads, and Linſeed in Milk and Water, with an Application of the Ceratum Album with Saccharum Saturni, not omitting to take away Blood, and made a perfect Cure of it. She likewiſe lived many Years after.

INSTANCE III.

MRS. HARRIS, in MOOR-STREET, afflicted with a Cancer in her Breaſt, was cured after the ſame Manner, as is above recited, namely, by Mercurial Ointments, and the Neutral Mixture.

INSTANCE IV.

MRS. —— had a large and painful Tumour in her Knee. She put herſelf under the Care of Mr. D—— of this Place, who attended her a conſiderable Time, and made uſe of many Medicines and Applications, as for a White Swelling, but without the leaſt expected Effect. She was then detached by the Pariſh Officers to their Place of Confinement, in order to be removed to BROMSGROVE, and have her Leg taken off as incurable. I was applied to by her Friends on this Occaſion, and, on Examination, found the Diſorder to be

a large, painful, and ſchirrhous Tumour, and rather ſo by Miſmanagement, than from any other Cauſe. I treated it in the following Manner, *viz.* with the Fotus ex Fol. Alth. Capit. Papav. Alb. Sem. Lin. *&c.* and, over all, with an Application of the Ceratum Album. I gave her beſides Neutral Medicines, and the Pulvis Æthiopicus. After ſome time the Symptoms diſappeared, and I finiſhed the Cure with Decoct. Quercin. and the Cerate.

INSTANCE V.

A DAUGHTER of Mr. CARPENTER's, of EDGBRESTON-MILL, aged about Thirteen, was attacked with a Dropſical Swelling of her Belly. I ordered the Neutral Mixture to be given her plentifully, and Pills with two Parts of Powder of Jalap, and one of Mercurius Dulcis, and a Bottle of Drops ex. Sp. Sal. Armoniac. Nitr. Dulc. Tinctur. Cantharid. ana p. æ. to be taken of in ſmall Liquors freely.

WHERE the Abdomen is very hard, and does not yield to the common Method, in that Caſe I injoin the Mercurial Ointment to be rubbed into it, and direct the Patient to purge briskly with the Miſtura, vel Electarium, Purgans.

I HAVE a Number of ſelect Caſes of the like Kind. But, as I propoſe to communicate them hereafter to the Publick in a diſtinct Treatiſe by themſelves, I ſhall omit the Relation of any more at this time; eſpecially as my Health is too much impaired at preſent for Applications of this Nature, and my Leiſure too ſcanty, from the frequent Calls I am under a ſort of Neceſſity of anſwering in regard of ſick Perſons. On which account I ſhall conclude this little Tract with a few looſe detached Obſervations, which may be uſeful Hints, perhaps, notwithſtanding to thoſe, who have not as yet been converſant to any great Degree with Practice.

IN the Diſorders I have mentioned, and wherever a cooling and opening Medicine is required, the following purging and alterative Electary may take place, inſtead of thoſe pompous ones we for the moſt part meet with in the Pharmacopœia's. This, however ſimple, will be found, I hope, to anſwer the Practitioner's Intentions much better, than any loaded Medicine whatever.

℞. Pulp.

℞. Pulp. Prunor. in Decoct. Mucilagin. Hord. Perlat. ppt. unc. ij. Nitr. Cremor. Tartar. Sal. Purgant. ana unc. iv. Acet. q. ſ. M. F. Electarium.

THE ſubſequent Decoction likewiſe may be equally ſerviceable, *viz.*

℞. Sal. Purgant. Commun. unc. viij. Nitr. unc. i. Aq. Fontan. lib. i. Acet. unc. iv. F. Decoctum.

THESE I have frequently recommended, where the Patients Circumſtances would not permit them to have recourſe to the Salt Mineral Water, and as frequently found them a very good Subſtitute for Water of that Nature, as they are well adapted to a cancerous Habit, or an inflamed, ſizey, State of the Blood. When the Cuticular Texture is relaxed, or the Faſciæ vitiated, what irregular and even ſurpriſing Appearances will the diſtorted or ill-directed Fibrillæ produce, where there is Room made for their preternatural Expanſion or Dilatation? What a Luſus Naturæ will appear in the Glandular Compages in ſcrophulous or cancerous Habits? Now, why may not a peculiar Form

of Gland, altered in cancerous Habits from its original Make, be occaſioned by irregular and diſtended Canals, produced by Humours vitiated and corrupted, ſo as at length to become of ſuch a cauſtic Quality, as evidently diſplays itſelf in a putreſcent and alkalious State of the Juices?

In external Applications I make uſe of the following Cerate inſtead of the Cerat. e Lapid. Calamin. ſo generally in vogue, *viz.*

℞. Emplaſtr. Commun. Ol. Ped. Bovin. ana q. ſ. M. et lento igne liqueſc. ſ. a. Signetur Ceratum Album.

But Care muſt be taken to put a greater Proportion of Oil in Winter than in Summer; otherwiſe this Cerate will be of too hard a Conſiſtence in the one Seaſon, or of too ſoft a one in the other. This is the moſt cooling Application I know of, and, ſpread thick on Linen, may be ſucceſsfully uſed for the firſt Dreſſing in Fractures. It greatly relieves the Pain and Tenſion of the Parts by relaxing their Fibres, and, from its ſoft and oily Quality, is well ſuited to mitigate an Inflammation, which is ſo frequently attempted by

by TURNER's Cerate, but injudiciouſly. For the Lapis Calaminaris contains braſſy arſenical Scoriæ, whoſe cauſtic Nature occaſions Pain, and, inſtead of removing the Inflammation (as the tender nervous Papillæ are ſubjected to its corroding Power) abſolutely increaſes it. In this Caſe the Application ſhould be removed immediately, and a Plaſter of this Cerate ſubſtituted in its Stead. The Ol. Ped. Bovin. is preferable to moſt Things of the Kind, as it is more emollient, and, when mixed with an equal Quantity of Vinegar, is an excellent Remedy for Sprains, Diſlocations, and Fractures. When the Fibres become tenſe and rigid from painful Pulſations, and Obſtructions in the Minima Vaſa, it relaxes and ſoftens to a great Degree, and of courſe turns out of ſingular Service on thoſe excruciating Occaſions. It is likewiſe endued with a Property of helping the ſmall Capillary Veſſels, when bleeding, to recover their loſt Fluids, and of forwarding the extravaſated Blood into the returning Venal Branches.

NOW I am ſpeaking of external Applications, I will take notice of ſome for the Eyes. The Axungia Viperina, Unguentum Tutiæ, and Sir HANS SLOANE's Ointment, I have found very ſucceſsful in my

my Practice. Though in ill-conditioned Ulcers, and Tumours of the Eyes, and adjacent Parts, the Fume of Mercurius Dulcis and Myrrh, with an Application of the Ceratum Album, together with ſuitable Evacuations, anſwers much better. What will Tutty, or Lapis Calaminaris, do alone in diſſolving the Obſtructions formed in thoſe Capillary Tubes, the laſt decreaſing Series of Nervo-Lymphatics? How many Diſorders and ſurpriſing Phænomena ariſe from Tumours too groſsly ſecreted in the tranſparent Membrane of that noble Organ, the Eye! How many Accidents proceed from, and depend upon, the too great contractile and diſtractile State of the nervous Syſtem, where its Membranes are ſo variouſly vitiated! Some Years ago, I propoſed to Dr. DESAGULIERS, a Method for relieving near-ſighted Perſons, by depreſſing the Cryſtalline Humour, as in couching; inaſmuch as, when that Medium is removed, one of a leſs Denſity will ſucceed, which will ſupply the Place of Glaſſes. But the Experiment I have never as yet tried.

IN the Caſes above recited, *viz.* Scrophulous Ulcers of the Eye-lids, the Ceratum Album, mixed either with Mercurius Dulcis, or Argentum Vivum, anſwers

anſwers very well: But the afore-hinted Fumigation of Myrrh and Mercurius Dulcis ſucceeds even to Admiration.

THUS have I gone through what I propoſed, namely, to recommend the Method and Medicines I have made uſe of, and found moſt effectual in reſtoring bad Habits of Body, and diſeaſed Conſtitutions, whether ariſing from a Scorbutic, Scrophulous, Venereal, or even from a Cancerous Cauſe. This I have done, I think, in as plain and conciſe a Manner as poſſible, without any pompous Parade of Words, or Flouriſhes of Language, which ſerve only to take off the Reader's Attention from the real Thing, and to fix it upon the Surface. Theſe Embelliſhments, indeed, take place in Novels or Romances, where the Beauty of Stile, and Delicacy of Sentiment, are Ornaments indiſpenſably neceſſary for the Recommendation of the Piece.

I NEED not inſinuate, that I have ſpoken largely in Favour of the NEUTRAL MIXTURE, prepared after my own Way. I will add, that in Diſorders of the Horned Cattle, after Bleeding, I would give a Pint of this ſame Mixture four Times a Day,

with Pulv. e Creta Compoſit. drachm. iij. Camphor. Scrup. j. in Spirit. Vin. Solut. and at the ſame time would order Nitr. unc. j. Acet. unc. iij. to be given in three Pints of Bran and Water betwixt the Times of taking the Neutral Mixture. When the Beaſts want to dung, give a Pint of the purging Decoction. The ſame Courſe may be taken in regard of Cattle that are troubled with griping Diſorders in the Bowels. If they are ſeized with a Flux, which is often the Caſe, the Decoct. Querc. will be proper, with Alum; or elſe Spirit. Vitriol. in Rice-Gruel.

FINIS.